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MODERN EQUIPMENT TO AID TIMBER PRODUCTION IN CHINA

[Summary: New logging tools, tried out in the Northeast China with excellent results, include a hoist for piling timber, an electric saw for cutting down trees, and an electric saw for sawing lumber. Southwest lumber needs are to be supplied by increased timber production in that area. A Shansi village plans afforestation of barren hills. An Inner Mongolian newspaper reader complained that local forestry officials called conferences and then failed to attend them.]

NEW TOOLS TRIED OUT IN NORTHEAST -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 6 Jan 54

The Northeast Forestry Industry Control Bureau, in the second logging area of the Tai-ling School of Practical Forestry, has tried using an all-season Soviet-type three-drum hoist for piling timber, with excellent results. Using this hoist, only four loggers were needed to transport the timber from the place where the tree was felled to the place where logs were piled up. Though the pile of timber was 2.0 meters distant the average time needed to haul each log was only 21 minutes. Each day this hoist could pile up 42 cubic meters of timber.

Electric saws were also tried out. The Ha-ling electric saw No 100 was used to saw lumber and the Wa-k'o-p'o electric saw for cutting down trees. These tests proved that by using an electric saw, boards could be cut nine and one-half times as fast as when using the cross-cut saw. Using the Wa-k'o-p'o electric saw, trees can be cut down four times as fast as when using only manual labor. This testing of mechanized equipment points to a new phase in the advancement of the Northeast forestry industry.

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EXPANSION OF FORESTRY INDUSTRY IN THE SOUTHWEST -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 17 Jan 54

In the Southwest there was great expansion of the forest industries during 1953. Production in all forms of forestry work surpassed that of 1952; e.g., 48 percent more timber was cut, 10.2 percent more piled, 11.5 percent more transported over land and 13.3 percent more rafted than in 1952. The total amount of timber scheduled to be logged in the Southwest was exceeded by 24 percent, while the transport of logs reached about 95 percent of the goal. This was achieved in spite of many difficulties connected with transportation.

Lumber from eastern and southern Szechwan and from Kweichow Province supplied the needs of Chungking and of the Ch'eng-tu--Chungking Railway. Some timber was also furnished for mine props and some pulp for paper mills. Lumber from western Szechwan aided construction in the city of Ch'eng-tu. Northern Szechwan produced mostly railway ties for the Pao-chi--Ch'eng-tu Railway.

Before 1953, forestry work in the Southwest produced fragmentary results in many widely separated localities. During 1953, most production units entered virgin forests and at the same time correlated their productive efforts. The Office of Control and its branch offices organized a forest-survey team that surveyed sufficient timber resources for production for several years. In general, the loggers changed from being seasonal workers to being regularly employed. Conditions are now right both as to labor supply and materials to furnish whatever is needed for construction work in the cities of the Southwest, for the immediate needs of the Pao-chi--Ch'eng-tu Railway, and for the future the needs of the Ch'eng-tu--K'un-ming Railway.

SUNGKIANG BEGINS WINTER TRANSPORT OF TIMBER -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao 7 Jan 54

To guarantee that timber will be transported down the mountains in time the Sungkiang People's Government has mobilized 64,000 men and 61,000 oxen and horses in 26 hsien. They have divided into groups to work under 19 separate forestry offices.

SHANSI VILLAGE ANTICIPATES FOREST PROFITS IN 15 YEARS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Jan 54

In Yang-ching-ti T'sun of P'ing-shun Hsien Shansi, the villagers have adopted a 7-year hill reforestation plan. It is estimated that after 15 years the lumber and forest products will give an annual yield worth 420 million yuan. Each individual will then average a 20-percent increase in his income from agricultural products.

EARLY COMPLETION OF SPRING AFFORESTATION -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 24 Feb 54

In the spring of 1954, the Central Kwantung area plans to plant 200,000 mou with horsetail pine seeds, 63,000 mou with cypress seeds, and to set but 1,670,000 miscellaneous seedlings. The horsetail pine seeds will be planted on the more barren hills. It is hoped that afforestation work will be completed by the end of February and so will not interfere with spring plowing.

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COMPLAINTS AGAINST FORESTRY LEADERS -- Kuei-sui, Nei-meng-ku Jih-pao, 7 Oct 53

[The following complaint was published in a "letters from readers" column.]

The Projects Section of the Po-k'o-t'u Forestry Industry Bureau in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region Forestry Office, acts without definite plan, issues public notices and directives carelessly, and waste the production efforts of many men. On 31 July, that office gave notice of a conference to be held at the 97 Kilometer Station. All the men ordered to attend were duly notified of the meeting but when the time came the Forestry Office men did not come. The workers wasted a whole day.

On 8 September the Forestry Office again gave notice of a conference to be held on 11 September. The men were there at the appointed time but for some reason the Forestry Office men did not come but sent a cadre to state that the conference would be postponed until the 13th. Later a telephone message informed them that the date would be the 12 September. Delegates from nearby towns returned to their homes while some from a distance stayed over one day. On the 12th the delegates were all there but again the forestry men failed to appear.

One delegate angrily asked "Do they write and stamp official notices just as the fancy strikes them?"

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